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MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1909.

Stand by Your Guns.

The significant list of absentees from the Republican caucus should give encouragement to those members of the House who favor a revision of the rules. It proves that the "insurgent" claims of strength have not been exaggerated, and shows that a coalition of Democrats and "insurgents" directed to a common purpose would be able to prevent the adoption of the old rules and to obtain their modification along the lines on which reform is so urgently needed. But, as we noted last week, the weak point in this possibility is the danger of Democratic defection.

On the ground of expediency and self-interest, a number of Democratic members consider that the best policy would be to stick to the Republican majority, and so win favor for their special desires. This is a curious attitude for members of a party which has sought the suffrages of the country on a platform utterly opposed to the programme the wavering Democrats now deem it politic to support. Going over to the enemy may be a good way to get a better supply of rations, but it is a poor way to win victory. If principle is no better than pelf, and opposition no longer a function of the minority, all party distinctions might as well be swept away and the verdict of the Republican caucus made unanimous.

To his everlasting honor, Champ Clark, minority leader, is standing out strongly against this abject surrender of party principle. He can accomplish nothing, however, without the hearty support of his colleagues. He can do nothing if a number of them persist in firing upon him from the rear. An extraordinary opportunity awaits the Democratic minority, in combination with the disaffected Republicans. It is improbable that Mr. Cannon can be defeated for Speaker, nor is it essential that he should be. The thing to be remedied, as everybody recognizes, is not personal, but systemic. And the remedy is in the hands of the very body of men which has for session after session been demanding the reform now within grasp. It would be a serious blunder to fall in this opportunity.

Sometimes the editor of the Congressional Record has to think twice, we suspect, before he is able to convince himself that the Outlook is not stealing his "legitimate" thunder.

The Black Hand.

Sneaking, cowardly, and treacherous for the most part, the Black Hand Society has called attention to itself and its far-reaching ramifications once more by the daring murder in Rome of Lieut. Joseph Petrosino, of the New York police. So notorious had become the workings of this secret society, banded together for crime and having no scruples about the taking of human life, that it long ago became plain that without co-operation with the police authorities of Italy—in which nation the Black Hand had its birth and which furnishes its membership—we could not hope successfully to keep the hideous propaganda from spreading throughout the larger cities of this country.

Long striving had shown that the local police, having no special knowledge of the society and its members, could not hope to make headway against this band of thugs and assassins. So it was that the New York police department called in some clever Italians to help, and chief among these, one of the bravest and cleverest, was the man who was murdered by the Black Hand in Rome. He was more than a mere police detective; he had special powers from the State Department, and the mission he was engaged in Italy was trying to arrange with the Italian authorities for such espionage over the more notorious members and suspects of the Black Hand that the American police might be kept informed when any of them sailed for these shores. His work has been stopped for the time being, but the tragic manner of his death and the escape of his murderers only serve to emphasize the fact that more rigorous methods than ever must be employed to hunt down the members of this society.

Already we have a system of inspection at our principal ports of entry which has enabled us to send back to Italy immigrants who were discovered to be outlaws and criminals. But a greater number by far has succeeded in getting past the authorities, and our police know that bands of the Black Hand membership are established in every large city. It is to be hoped that from now on these will be watched with greater care—pursued relentlessly if they are found guilty of plotting or conspiracy. Every member of the Black Hand is a criminal and a potential murderer. They are a dangerous leaven in any community. They should be hunted down without mercy.

Most of the weather we do not get in March is very beautiful indeed.

Before the shooting the elder Cooper was generally addressed as "Major," since, it appears, he is "Colonel." If

the gentleman is granted his liberty he may eventually get enough notches in his gun-handle to entitle him to be known as "General."

Naval Engineering.

Five junior officers of the navy have been designated to receive special instruction in ordnance work, it being found that only that number of ensigns can be spared from duty on board ship and elsewhere for this purpose. This is part of a worthy plan of fitting junior officers as specialists in naval work, another branch being that of engineering, which, since the enactment of the naval personnel law amalgamating the line and old engineer corps, has been woefully neglected. It was intended that line officers should serve periodically in engine rooms of ships of war to which they were attached, with the idea that they would thus acquire by personal observation and direct experience a practical knowledge of the important subject of engineering. This, of course, is only a part of the work which must be done in obtaining an acquaintance with a profession which forms a vital part of naval duties. It was also arranged that junior line officers should be detailed to special instruction in engineering and for a time this was done, but the lack of officers, or some other condition, has operated to interfere with this plan.

It is amazing to find the naval authorities so little appreciative of doing anything which will make it really worth while for a junior line officer to take up engineering in the service. It will be readily appreciated that the average line officer sees greater opportunity for the exercise of his talents on deck, with a proportionately greater assurance of reward than exists for the officer who adopts engineering as a specialty. There was no more fallacious theory advanced in behalf of the amalgamation of the line and engineer corps than that the naval officer could become an all-round expert, or a "fighting engineer," as he was spectacularly described. Naval engineering must be performed by men who devote themselves to a study of a profession, and they will be available to the service in proportion to the amount of time and effort they bestow on that specialty. The sagacious naval view realizes that sooner or later when the old engineers are gone—the service will be confronted with a serious problem made the more urgent by the peril created by prevailing indifference to the subject.

That \$25,000,000 affair appears to have been more of a frolic than a fight for the Standard Oil, after all.

Ho! for the Jungle.

Mr. Roosevelt need not fear, we think, that he will not carry into Darkest Africa the admiration and high regard of many sturdy Americans, who wish him much luck, big game, and a safe return. That hunting expedition is close to the hearts of the common people of this land, and is of no small interest to the uncommon people, too, as we have occasion to know.

Here comes, for instance, Mr. Edward Leland Strong, the Sweet Singer of Pawtucket, and bursts into song in respect of this impending event, warbling in this wise:

Into the jungle, fierce and dank
Goes our President of highest rank;
A sturdy lad he will also go
To take the snags and push the button, oh!
Far away from protection of our fleet
And no doubt there—only chased meat.
All hearts will make a crest with
That a good time will not be missed.

Some, who do not like him so
At this trip, and say, "Oh, come off!"
But it is no laughing matter to be
In the jungle wilds of that country.
How many editors who sneer and purr
Would be brave enough to go to Africa?
I wonder what they would do
If face to face with a angry gun?

On Roosevelt all can well depend
That the bullets he will swiftly send
To animals that come his way
And show them how the U. S. A.
Should a lion oppose his walk.
He will give him a line of talk
That the lion will, like Harlan, feel,
And say he is made of brawn and zeal.

And so here is a crest hope
That no danger comes into his scope.
And that he gets home fresh and green
Back to the White House in 1912.
Then railroads and Wall Street and the rest
Will once more break like glass off his breast,
And after his season of refreshment
His trip to Africa will prove a good investment.

This is by no means the first time we have had occasion to note the patriotic and uplifting effusions of Mr. Strong. He is not only a poet of unique and compelling persuasion, but he observes the trend of political progress, and embalm his sentiments concerning the same in soul-stirring verse, even as Rudyard Kipling has been wont to do now and then.

A careful reading of the exhibit herein display will show a thoughtful consideration of events and things as they may fall out, and as the poet unquestionably hopes they will fall out. As Mr. Strong inquires, "How many editors who sneer and purr would be brave enough to go to Africa?" We pause an instant for a reply; but not longer, because we know it will not be forthcoming. Editors who "sneer and purr" never hanker for the jungle; they spend their day rather in high living, wine bibbing, malefactoring, and other reprehensible pursuits too numerous to mention, and not fit to print, anyway. Thank heaven, there are very few editors who "sneer and purr"—audibly, at all events.

Also, Poet Strong sees plainly a vision of a re-Rooseveltized White House in 1912. We doubt not this is a blessed vision hovering on the horizon of many hopes. Poet Strong may be not only a poet, but a prophet as well. Who knows? And if it should happen so, perhaps "his (the ex-President's) trip would prove a good investment"—and that even though Wall Street might not be interested in it, or Congress amiably impressed thereby.

"A word to the Weather Bureau," says an editorial headline in a contemporary. We cannot say that it was—we feared to read it.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has sent the King of Italy a diplomatic. These things appear to be the Carnegie European substitute for libraries.

Oh, look who's here! A real, new Congress!

Sherman, however, is not rendered especially probable because of that admittedly distressing fact.

We assure the new Congressmen they all look every bit as grand as they feel, too.

The proposed increased tax on beer will interest the common people no little. Incidentally, it is up to the dispensers to decide, we suppose, whether they will move up the bottom of the glass or crowd down the foam line.

The Houston Post of recent date had something to say of "the Senator from Hopkins." The Illinois legislature performed the operation, we believe.

"You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will, but the scent of the roses will hang round it still." This, unfortunately, however, is equally true of the asafetida jar.

Cannon to the right of them, Cannon to the left of them, Cannon in front of them—no little band of insurgents! We suspect their day will come yet!

"I am glad to be out of politics," says Mr. Thomas Collier Platt. We have no idea this statement will start an argument anywhere.

We do not see how the women are to stretch their dear little necks any farther in the matter of collar fashions, but we have no doubt they will manage it, if later styles demand the same.

The advance notices are all in, the curtain is about to rise. We shall soon know whether tariff revision is to be a real, first-class performance, or a cheap comedy.

Castro is said to be homesick, but it is doubtful if home is especially Castrosch.

A Chinese missionary society has sent \$30 to Arkansas for the enlightenment of the natives. We fear our Chinese friends take Senator "Jeff" Davis too seriously.

Quicksilver has been steadily falling in price for the past few years. It seems that we cannot win. Now that the cost of living has put luxurious repairs out of reach of the common people, calomel gets cheaper!

We suppose, however, we should have expected some phase of the "unwritten law" to be rung in on a jury that can neither read nor write. And that is just what happened in the Carmack murder trial.

Impossible story—beginning, respectfully submitted for the New York Mail's inspection: "Mr. James Wilson had just notified the new President that he could not and would not serve longer as Secretary of Agriculture—"

Commenting on The Washington Herald's statement that George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, and that "this historic precedent should be followed," the Norfolk Landmark says: "And so should a good many others set by Washington." Amendment is accepted.

We learn with genuine regret that Editor Caldwell, of the Charlotte Observer, is seriously ill. We hope to hear of his early and complete recovery. Not only do we love him, but his editorial observations are the source of pleasure to journalists in his corner of the universe.

MR. REED AND SPANISH WAR.

Opposition to It One Point of Agreement with McKinley.

From the Boston Traveller.
Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, former president of the Institute of Technology, has an article in this month's North American Review which bears directly on the recent controversy between Gov. Guild and Asker G. Hines, parliamentary secretary of Congress, regarding Speaker Reed's alleged obstruction of the Spanish-American war. Dr. Pritchett confirms that Speaker Reed and President McKinley worked together to oppose a war, which both believed to be unnecessary, and he tells of a conversation with Mr. McKinley, in which the President expressed the opinion that but for the hysterical state of the public mind in America the Cuban question might have been settled by diplomatic arrangements with the Spanish government without resort to hostilities.

Speaker Reed and Mr. McKinley were antipathetic in many points, but in this matter of opposition to the Spanish war they were in entire accord, and any attack on the memory of Reed for his action must also be an attack on President McKinley.

The story has never been before told of an incident which occurred the night before war was finally declared by Congress. The war party, which included Republican jingoes like Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy; the Hearst papers, and most of the Southern Democrats in Congress, had caused the war fever to spread like a conflagration all over the land, until President McKinley realized that the war must result. At the White House that night with him was his best friend, Senator Hanna, and three other trusted advisers, who were still alive. After a review of the situation and the forced conclusion that he must fight, the President turned to his advisers and put his head in his hands and gave way to an outbreak of uncontrollable tears. Every man in the room was deeply affected. After a few moments, the President lifted up his head, and said that while he believed that there was no question as to the nation's ability to win such a war, such a conflict held in it infinite consequences of harm, but, under the conditions, there was nothing to do but to protect the nation's honor and future.

Mr. McKinley's vision was prophetic, and after Dr. Pritchett's article it will be difficult for anyone safely in future to question Tom Reed's motives in obstructing the war.

The Question of Revenue.

From the Baltimore Sun.
Congress may have a difficult task in providing revenue from taxation which will be sufficient for the expenditures that have now been authorized. But it should be remembered that in all the recent years, except two or three, the revenues of the government have been far more than sufficient, and a surplus was accumulated. The deficit has occurred in the lean years of business depression, and with the revival of business the tariff and excise taxes may again be more than sufficient. If new taxes are added they may produce another surplus, and a surplus always invites and suggests extravagance. When a prudent business man finds that his income is falling off, his first thought is to make a reduction in his expenditures. Would it not be better for Congress to adopt this plan until business revives and make some readjustment of tariff rates to put them more upon a revenue basis, rather than go on a hunt for new things to tax? It would surely be wisest from a political point of view.

In a State of Flux.

From the Charleston News and Courier.
One of the troubles with the Democratic party appears to be that it has no fixed principles upon any public question.

A Little Nonsense.

"Vilets, fresh vilets!"
Such is the cry.
While heaping high
A fragrant bouquet on a tray.
"Vilets, fresh vilets!"
This we see them every day.
"Vilets, fresh vilets!"
Such is the cry.

"Vilets, sweet vilets!"
The while the throng
Comes hurrying with restless feet
Adown the busy, bustling street.
"Vilets, sweet vilets!"
Such is the cry.

Quite so.
"Never count your chickens before they are hatched."
"Well!"
"No harm to do your pennant boasting before the season starts, however."

Plenty of Precedent.
"Will that young man ever go home?"
demanded the irritated head of the house.
"I guess so, father," replied the material-familias. "He always has."

FIGHTING BLACK HAND.

Co-operation of Italian Authorities and Citizens Necessary.

From the New York Journal.
We have been much too easy-going in dealing with the crimes on which the Black Hand thrives. Because the Italians in this country have shown so little resolution in combating its extortions and exposing its agents, the public has come to think that the victims of the society's operations deserve little sympathy. It is probably true that if the well-to-do Italians in New York, or in any other city where Black Hand blackmail flourishes, should organize a law and order society, and energetically pursue the criminal element in their community, that element would be quickly driven out. Our courts would make short work of the blackmailers and bomb throwers. But the Italian element here seems to be too accustomed to terrorism as to regard it merely as a necessary evil. The Italian community will not set its house in order, and is so secretive and apathetic when Black Hand outrages occur that the work cannot be done from the outside by our police department.

What is most needed to crush out these criminal associations is the co-operation of the Italian authorities and our immigration service to prevent the free passage of criminals or criminal suspects from one country to another. The Italian Petrovino's mission to Sicily was to secure lists of Sicilian criminals, to be used in preventing the admission of those criminals at our ports. He wanted to trace the ramblings of crime and to put the authorities here in possession of material on the strength of which dangerous Italians could be turned back and criminals already admitted could be deported. Our immigration laws need to be strengthened, so as to require some sort of certification from police administrations abroad of the cleanliness of the applicant's record. The Black Hand evil is so rampant in this city in the last few years, it is responsible for shocking crimes, and the immunity which the perpetrators of those crimes have enjoyed has greatly encouraged crime on the part of representatives of other nationalities.

Even the Black Hand, instead of fattening on its own people, may turn its energies against the community generally. Severe measures are needed to stamp out this agency of organized crime. Petrovino will not have died in vain if his death leads to the destruction of the organization which he heroically fought until it laid him low.

QUALITIES OF A JUDGE.

Human Sympathy Necessary, as Well as Legal Learning.

From the New York Journal.
I have felt an ever-growing conviction of the need of having on the bench men who, in addition to being learned in the law and upright, shall possess a broad understanding of and sympathy with their countrymen as a whole, so that the questions of humanity and of social justice shall not be considered by them as wholly inferior to the defense of vested rights or the upholding of liberty of contract. A fair-spirited refinement in decision may result in as much damage to the law and the community as the lack of sympathy as if the judge were actually corrupt. Freedom of contract should be permitted only so far as it is compatible with the best interests of the community, and when vested rights become entrenched wrongs, they should be overturned. I do not for one moment believe that the mass of our judges are actuated by any but worthy motives. Nevertheless, I do believe that they often signify fail to protect the laboring man and the laborer's widow and child from the grasp of the law, and that their narrowness and pitiful injustice too often results therefrom; and this primarily because our judges lack either the opportunity or the desire to understand the position and needs of the workingman's and working woman's position and vital needs.

There are many judges, from the Supreme Court of the nation down to the district bench in each State, who possess this sympathy and understanding, in addition to uprightness, trained ability, broad intelligence, and entire fearlessness in the face of wrong, whether committed by capitalist or by laborer; such judges are the best and most useful of all our public servants; public opinion should uphold them as clearly as it condones the short-sighted and narrow-minded brethren.

RECIPROCITY IN COAL.

Idea that It Would Be Mutually Profitable Gaining Ground.

From the Philadelphia Record.
One of the most surprising incidents of the pending tariff discussion is the petition to the Ways and Means Committee to establish reciprocity in coal with Canada, which a Pittsburgh dispatch says has been signed by nearly every operator in the Western Pennsylvania district.

Western Canada can get coal more cheaply from the United States than from Nova Scotia, because the coal can be shipped across the Lakes. New England can get coal more cheaply from Pennsylvania, because it can be brought by vessels. Except to the railroad companies it is a clear waste for both companies to try to supply themselves wholly with domestic coal. Our duty on coal is higher than the Canadian, and there is only a small part of the United States that could be economically served from Nova Scotia. The result is that our coal producers have much the better of the business. In the last calendar year we imported 1,375,000 tons of coal from Canada, and we exported to Canada 5,542,000 tons, not including anthracite. In consequence of this the Nova Scotia producers applied to the Ottawa government a couple of weeks ago for an increased duty, complaining that Americans were getting their markets away from them, and the Western Pennsylvania producers are now asking for the mutual abrogation of positions.

The duties on coal were repealed, the relative positions of the mine operators in both countries would probably not be greatly changed. Pennsylvania producers would sell more coal in Ontario and farther west, and Nova Scotian producers would sell more in New England and perhaps farther down the Atlantic coast. Consumers on both sides would get coal cheaper than at present; and it is not at all certain that the producers would not get more business, even if their direction were somewhat changed.

Amendment Needed.

From the New Orleans Picayune.
While a constitutional amendment involves some trouble and delay, the protection of so great a concourse of people as commonly gather for an inauguration from serious inconvenience, expense, and the risk of serious illness or death from exposure makes any amount of trouble comparatively small consequence.

Rebating May Revive.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.
The president of the New York Central declares that there will be no more rebating, being brought to a reformed state of mind by the efforts of that great rebating agent, the Standard Oil Company.

The Standard Oil Company has produced the other effect on more important factors in the rebating industry.

Naught to Rail At.

From the Boston Transcript.
Pity the poor Democrat! Roosevelt stole its ideals, and now Taft is silencing its historic groan.

How to Go and Forget.

From the Milwaukee Wisconsin.
I know how to go, and I know how to forget.
How to go to you, sing to you.
How to love the old—
How to love the new, sing to you.
How to love the old—
How to love the new, sing to you.
How to go and forget.

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